

HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

COURSE OUTLINE

1. **Course Title**

Advanced Seminar in Language and Gender

2. **Course Code**

LANG 7650

3. **No. of Units**

3 units

4. **Offering Department**

MA in Language Studies Programme

5. **Prerequisite**

Nil

6. **Medium of Instruction**

English

7. **Aims & Objectives**

The course offers an introduction to some of the major differences in the language of men and women, boys and girls; discusses possible causes and consequences of these differences and develops students' research skills in language and gender. A wide range of current issues in the academic field of language and gender will be presented, and different approaches to analyzing the impact of gender in both spoken and written texts will be discussed. Cultural variation will also be in focus. The emphasis will be on developing the students' awareness and critical thinking of gender in their own experiences of language use and learning, as well as applying their knowledge to educational contexts. Besides working on assigned materials, students will be asked to collect and analyze their own data, using the theoretical frameworks from the course.

8. **Course content**

(1) Introduction: The history of research on language and gender

- (2) Gender and different linguistic and conversational features
- (3) Gender, language and education (language use, gender and power in the classroom)
- (4) Gender, socialization and identity (gender specific norms for appropriate behaviour: the ‘real boy’ and the ‘nice girl’ syndrome)
- (5) Gender and professional communication: male and female leadership, men and women talking in meetings etc.
- (6) Gender and language in the media, gender and political correctness (e.g. portrayal of gender stereotypes)
- (7) Cross-cultural differences of gender in language (examples from diverse communities across the world)
- (8) Theoretical issues: Causes and consequences (e.g. social network theory, feminist theories, the two-cultures approach etc.)

9. Course Intended Learning outcomes (CILOs)

CILO	By the end of the course, students should be able to:
CILO 1	Explain the interrelationship between linguistic phenomena and social categories, particularly gender
CILO 2	Evaluate different theories which attempt to explain the differences in men and women’s language
CILO 3	Analyze different social and cultural contexts demonstrating men and women’s preference for different linguistic and communicative features
CILO 4	Apply their own experiences of language and gender to a critical evaluation of existing studies and theories, particularly in the area of gender and education
CILO 5	Conduct a small research project on language and gender

10. Teaching & Learning Activities (TLAs)

CILO No.	TLAs
CILO 1 & 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation and discussion of evidence from diverse socio-cultural contexts to demonstrate gender differences in language
CILO 1, 2 & 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small-group discussions of authentic data demonstrating

	gender differences in language
CILO 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class presentations and discussions relating the students' experience of gender differences in language to the research findings
CILO 1, 4 & 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Observing and recording evidence of gender differences in language
CILO 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carrying out a small-scale research project on language and gender

11. Assessment Methods (AMs)

Type of Assessment	Weighting	CILOs to be addressed	Description of Assessment Tasks
Coursework	50%	1, 2, 3 & 4	Small-group discussions, class presentations and discussions, data analysis, short-answer assignments, observation and recording of men and women's language
Term paper	50%	1, 2 & 5	Preparing and conducting a small-scale research project on language and gender